

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 032328

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ORIGIN SS-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 032328

EXDIS TOSEC 130

FOLLOWING REPEAT SALT TWO GENEVA 0032 ACTION SECSTATE

DTD 12 FEB

QTE

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 0032

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PRIVATE MEETING SEMENOV-JOHNSON FEBRUARY 12
(SALT TWO-516)

1. I HAVE JUST SPENT A TRYING TWO AND ONE- HALF HOURS IN
PRIVATE MEETING WITH SEMENOV (WHICH HE REQUESTED) IN WHICH WE
WENT ROUND AND ROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH ON THE VIRTUES OF DRAFTING
AGREEMENT TEXT ON THOSE MATTERS ON WHICH WE AGREE VERSUS FIRST
REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING ON WHAT WAS PRECISELY TO BE CONTAINED

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 032328

IN AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN ALMOST TWO WEEKS SINCE

THEY TABLED THEIR DRAFT; THAT WE HAD AVOIDED ANY DISCUSSION OF IT; THAT WE HAD SET FORTH SOME VIEWS WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF CONCENTRATING ON THOSE MATTERS ON WHICH WE DISAGREED RATHER THAN ON THOSE MATTERS ON WHICH WE AGREED, AND HERE WE WERE AFTER TWO WEEKS WITH NOTHING CONCRETE TO SHOW FOR OUR LABOR -- NOT EVEN THE TEXT OF A PREAMBLE. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS RAISING QUESTIONS IN MOSCOW ON OUR WHOLE APPROACH AND IN A HAMHANDED REFERENCE TO FEBRUARY 4 PRAVDA ARTICLE WITH ITS REFERENCE TO CIRCLES IN THE US OPPOSED TO AGREEMENT AND DETENTE SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT FAILURE TO MAKE WHAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER PROGRESS HERE WAS FUELING OPPONENTS OF SALT AGREEMENT IN MOSCOW.

2. SEMENOV SPECIFICALLY PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP WORKING FROM SOVIET TEXT TO DRAFT PREAMBLE AND " ARTICLES I, II, III AND IV," DESIGNATING KARPOV AND SMOLIN ON HIS SIDE. HE SAID THAT " AS THEIR WORK PROCEEDED" IF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AROSE " EXPERTS COULD GET TOGETHER TO TRY TO WORK THEM OUT." I TRIED TO TURN THIS INTO AGREEMENT THAT WHATEVER NAME THEY MAY BE CALLED-- OR NO NAME--ROWNY AND GET TOGETHER ON PROBLEM OF DEFINING STRATEGIC WEAPONS TO BE INCLUDED IN AGGREGATE, AND MAY COULD GET TOGETHER WITH WHOMEVER HE DESIGNATED ON MIRV VERIFICATION ISSUES; BUT HE DID NOT BITE.

3. I STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF OUR HAVING THEIR VIEWS ON QUESTIONS WHICH WE HAD RAISED AND OUR PROPOSED ANSWERS THERETO AS MOST EXPEDITIOUS WAY OF GETTING AHEAD, STATING THAT WITHOUT THESE MATTERS BEING RESOLVED OR AT LEAST KNOWING WHAT THE DIFFERENCES WERE, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET AHEAD WITH ANY DRAFTING. I, OF COURSE, STRESSED THAT WE WERE NOT TRYING TO DELAY OR STALL, RATHER APPROACHING THE WHOLE MATTER IN A WAY THAT WE FELT COULD MOST QUICKLY ARRIVE AT BEST AGREEMENT. I TRIED TO PUT BALL BACK INTO HIS COURT BY STATING THAT I HOPED BY TUESDAY HE WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE PROPOSITIONS THAT WE HAD PUT FORWARD. JOHNSON UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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